

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The individual consumer should be able to make copies for personal use. Restricting use to "professionals" does not protect the copyright holder as the "professional" has better access for illegal distribution. It's a short step from allowing limited copying to none at all

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Within my home, there is a video network for the various rooms. Included are devices to distribute and boost the signal. Any restrictions imposed, by a digital flag or any other means, may severely limit my ability to enjoy entertainment for personal use. If they don't want anyone to see it, don't distribute it.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Any control, such as a broadcast flag, could be used to limit the ability to view or record something on the public airwaves. Such a control may, now or in the future, be used to force expensive equipment upgrades. E.g, I have been forced to purchase new software for applications that was working fine. the supplier refused to upgrade or support the older version.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Every technological development fosters a whole new line of products that take advantage of the new technology. Think what would have happened if CD technology was squelched by rules that required cassette tapes.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

While future cost factors would be hard to estimate, restrictions, such as dealing with a broadcast flag, are very likely to require expensive upgrades and equipment purchases.

Other Comments:

Laws, rules, and regulations that seek to restrict legitimate practices to the benefit of a few are abhorrent to America's free market system. This rule appears to fit that mold. The FCC would better spend it's time investigating the networks who have long strayed from the fair and balanced approach that is required for them to continue to use the public airways. Investigate that, pull a few licenses, and America will be the better.